

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-2, 4 and 6-8 have been amended and claims 10-21 have been added as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording, comprising a first step of kneading (1) a styrene-acrylic type resin with a styrene type monomer unit of 50 to 90 mass %, and at least one unit selected from[[,]] an acrylic monomer unit and a methacrylic monomer unit, having an acid value of 50 to 300 and a mass average molecular weight of 5,000 to 40,000, (2) a pigment, (3) a basic compound, and (4) a humectant to produce a solid colored kneaded product, and
a second step of dispersing the solid colored kneaded product in an aqueous medium comprising water or water and a humectant.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 1, wherein the (1) styrene-acrylic type resin has a mass average molecular weight of 5,000 to 40,000, and the (2) pigment is at least one pigment selected from the group consisting of an azo type yellow pigment, a quinacridone type red pigment, a phthalocyanine type indigo blue pigment, and a carbon black type black pigment.

Claim 3 (original): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 2, wherein the mass percentage of the (1) styrene-acrylic type resin, the (2) pigment, and the (4) humectant in the first step is (1) 10 to 100 parts, (2) 100 parts, and (4) 20 to 100 parts, repectively.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the kneading in the first step is performed using a planetary type kneading apparatus.

Claim 5 (original): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 4, wherein the kneading temperature in the first step is not higher than a glass transition temperature of the (1) styrene-acrylic type resin.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the (3) basic compound is an alkali metal hydroxide, and the (4) humectant is a polyhydric alcohol having a boiling point of not less than 170°C.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the compounding amount

of the (3) basic compound is an amount corresponding to 0.8 to 1.2 times the amount for neutralizing all carboxylic groups of the (1) styrene-acrylic type resin.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An aqueous ink for ink-jet recording comprising the aqueous pigment dispersion as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 as a main component.

Claim 9 (original): The aqueous ink for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 8 which is used for ink-jet recording in a thermal ink-jet type.

Claim 10 (new): An aqueous ink for ink-jet recording comprising the aqueous pigment dispersion as set forth in claim 2 as a main component.

Claim 11 (new): The aqueous ink for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 10 which is used for ink-jet recording in a thermal ink-jet type.

Claim 12 (new): An aqueous ink for ink-jet recording comprising the aqueous pigment dispersion as set forth in claim 3 as a main component.

Claim 13 (new): The aqueous ink for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 12 which is used for ink-jet recording in a thermal ink-jet type.

Claim 14 (new): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 2, wherein the kneading in the first step is performed using a planetary type kneading apparatus.

Claim 15 (new): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 14, wherein the kneading temperature in the first step is not higher than a glass transition temperature of the (1) styrene-acrylic type resin.

Claim 16 (new): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 3, wherein the kneading in the first step is performed using a planetary type kneading apparatus.

Claim 17 (new): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 16, wherein the kneading temperature in the first step is not higher than a glass transition temperature of the (1) styrene-acrylic type resin.

Claim 18 (new): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 2, wherein the (3) basic compound is an alkali metal hydroxide, and the (4) humectant is a polyhydric alcohol having a boiling point of not less than 170°C.

Claim 19 (new): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 3, wherein the (3) basic compound is an alkali metal hydroxide, and the (4) humectant is a polyhydric alcohol having a boiling point of not less than 170°C.

Claim 20 (new): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 2, wherein the compounding amount of the (3) basic compound is an amount corresponding to 0.8 to 1.2 times the amount for neutralizing all carboxylic groups of the (1) styrene-acrylic type resin.

Claim 21 (new): The process for producing an aqueous pigment dispersion for ink-jet recording as set forth in claim 3, wherein the compounding amount of the (3) basic compound is an amount corresponding to 0.8 to 1.2 times the amount for neutralizing all carboxylic groups of the (1) styrene-acrylic type resin.